

Hanging Glass Door Cabinets

In Plain Sight yet protected storage for books, curiosities and collections



Most homeowners suffer from an unwritten law: “Stuff” (books, collections, dishes, etc.) expands to fill the space available...**and beyond.**” Consequently, while you always seem to have an abundance of this kind of “stuff”, you never seem to have enough places to stash it.

Our attractive hanging cabinet is a great way to add that necessary storage space. And, as you can see by our example, the cabinet joiner used to put it all together is really quite simple. The shelves are joined to the sides with simple dadoes and rabbets. The front frame is doweled together and then merely butted-up to the shelving assembly.

The rails and stiles of the doors are joined together with slot mortise-and-tenons. Although this joint isn’t as strong as a true mortise-and-tenon, in a light door frame such as ours, it’s perfectly acceptable.

Hanging cabinets are fastened to walls by bolting or screwing them directly to the wall studs. In our cabinet, two vertical stringers are attached to the backs of the shelves, spaced to line-up perfectly with our wall studs. These stringers are then fastened to the wall studs with lag screws. You could also use 1” x 2” “bridges”: just cut two of these to the same length as the shelves and fasten them to the studs in the wall. Then fasten the top and bottom shelves to these “bridges”.

You can easily vary this design to meet your specific storage needs. Make your shelves 11” to 15” deep for bookshelves, 6” to 11” deep for curios or collections and 15” to 21” deep for use as a kitchen cabinet.

Inset doors...while they may look “classy”, can be far more difficult to make. Rabbeted (or “overlapping”) doors are infinitely easier. Add a solid wooden panel instead of glass if you don’t want to see the cabinet contents.

List of Materials

(finished dimensions in inches)

A	Shelves (4)	3/4 x 11 x 58
B	Sides (2)	3/4 x 11 x 40-1/2
C	End Frame Stiles (2)	3/4 x 2 x 40-1/2
D	Middle Frame Stile (1)	3/4 x 2 x 34-1/2
E	Frame rails (2)	3/4 x 3 x 54-3/4
F	Stringers (2)	3/4 x 2 x 38-1/4
G	Door Stiles (8)	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 34-3/8*
H	Door Rails (8)	3/4 x 1-1/2 x 13-1/8*
J	Crown Molding (optional)	3/4 x 2-5/8 x 90

Hardware

- (50) #12 x 1-1/4" flathead wood screws
- (4 panes) 1/8" glass, cut to suit
- (4 pairs) 1" x 2" cabinet hinges
- (4) cabinet door pulls
- (4) cabinet door catches

* This will leave a small amount of clearance so the doors will open and close easily. You might get a better fit by cutting the doors 1/8" oversize, then shaving them down

